



La Barranca Fire Update

Date: June 3, 2006, 9 a.m.

Fire Name: La Barranca Fire

Time/Date Started: Thursday, June 1, 2006 – 2 p.m.

Location: Oak Creek Village; The La Barranca Fire started on La Barranca Drive in the Village of Oak Creek, south of Sedona and east of Highway 179. The fire started on private property and moved onto the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. It is now burning most actively in the Munds Mountain Wilderness.

Cause: Human-caused. The La Barranca Fire was caused by a fence company that was grinding on a metal fence post on private property.

Fuels: Grass, brush, pinyon-juniper woodland

Size: Total Size – 836 acres

% Contained: 50 %

Resources Committed: 10 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 3 Type 2 crews, 4 helicopters (1 heavy, 2 medium, 1 light), airtankers available if needed, 6 engines, 5 water tenders. Total personnel = approx. 500 personnel assigned

Estimated Cost to Date: \$300,000

Predicted Weather: Hot and dry conditions are expected to continue well into next week.

Temperatures are expected to be up to 100 degrees today. Relative humidity levels could be down to as low as 5 percent.

Structures:

Structures have been lost:

- 1 primary residence destroyed

- 1 partially-damaged residence

- 1 guest house/shop destroyed

- 3 outbuildings destroyed

From Estate Circle up canyon in the fire area, 158 total structures were saved.

Evacuation Center: There are an estimated 200 evacuees from the Pine Valley subdivision. The evacuation order remains in effect for Pine Valley residents. However, fire managers are reevaluating conditions this morning and a meeting for evacuees will be held today at 10 a.m. in the Red Cross Evacuation Center, which is located at the Big Park Community School. To contact the evacuation center directly, please call 928-220-2186.

Summary: Today, firefighters will continue to mop up and secure structures in the Pine Valley subdivision. Mop up operations refer to firefighters seeking out and extinguishing any remaining hot spots in the fire area. Firefighters will also continue to construct line on the fire's northeast side.

Cooperating Agencies: Yavapai County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, City of Sedona fire and police departments, Red Cross

Closures:

Trails closed – Woods Canyon, Jacks Canyon, Hot Loop, Munds Mountain

Roads closed – The section of Schnebly Hill Road from I-17 to the gate at Merry-Go-Round

Restrictions: As fire danger increases, additional fire restrictions go into effect on the Coconino National Forest Monday, June 5, 2006, at 8 a.m., prohibiting activities which could cause a wildfire.

- Campfires—including charcoal fires—are prohibited in all areas, including developed campgrounds. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters are allowed.
- Operating a chainsaw is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. These restrictions apply to both personal use with a firewood permit and commercial operations.

Also prohibited:

- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or developed recreation site.
- Welding.
- Using an explosive.
- Operating any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arrester.
- Operating a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area cleared of vegetation, and except in the Cinder Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area north of Flagstaff.
- Fireworks are always prohibited on national forest lands.

Violations are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. These restrictions will remain in place until enough precipitation falls to decrease fire danger. For further information about fire restrictions on the Coconino National Forest, visit www.coconinoforest.us or call 928-527-3600. The latest fire restriction information on public lands across Arizona can be found at www.azfireinfo.com and <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or by calling toll-free 1-877-864-6985.

La Barranca Fire Contact Numbers: 928-204-6538, 928-606-7490, 928-606-7561, 928-606-7578